

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 2
Columbia River Joint State Hearing
February 8, 2012

Fisheries under consideration:	Bonneville Pool Recreational Sturgeon
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- Under permanent rule, the 2012 Zone 6 (Bonneville Dam upstream to McNary Dam) recreational white sturgeon fisheries opened for retention effective January 1. The fisheries remain open until the annual guideline for each pool is met. Fishery status for all pools are as follows:

2012 Recreational Sturgeon Harvest in Zone 6				
	Guideline	Catch ¹	Balance	Season Status
Bonneville Pool	2,000	812	1,188	Ongoing
The Dalles Pool	300	27	273	Ongoing
John Day Pool	500	75	425	Ongoing

¹ Through January 31

- Catch rates to date in The Dalles and John Day pools have been lower than recent years and the fisheries remain open. As of January 31, The Dalles Pool is at 9% of the guideline, and John Day Pool is at 15% of the guideline. In 2011, The Dalles Pool closed on July 30 and John Day Pool closed on April 10.
- Through January 31, the Bonneville Pool fishery has reached nearly 41% of the guideline. Catch rates (and effort) in Bonneville Pool have been highly variable, but harvest is currently projected to reach about 1,100 fish on Friday, February 17.
- In December 2011, the Joint States held a public meeting in The Dalles regarding sturgeon retention seasons in Zone 6. The discussions included the unpredictable nature of the season length in each pool, and the desire to have a retention period in Bonneville Pool during the summer months.
- Based on those discussions, at the January 26 Compact hearing staff proposed closing the Bonneville Pool to retention in mid-February if the quota has not previously been met. The intent would be to use the remaining quota for a summer retention fishery.
- Considering the projected balance of harvestable sturgeon (900 fish) remaining on the Bonneville Pool guideline through February 17, staff is proposing the following action:

<i>Staff Recommendation: Recreational White Sturgeon Fishery – Bonneville Pool</i>

Effective 12:01 AM Saturday, February 18, 2012: Close Bonneville Pool for white sturgeon retention.

- Staff anticipates re-opening the retention season sometime during the summer months of 2012.
- Staff is not recommending any additional Compact hearings at this time.